

**REMARKS**

Claims 9-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 9-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cock (EP 0878 667 A2).

The claims have been amended. New claims 21-28 have been added. Reconsideration of the application based on the amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

**Amendment to independent claim 9**

Independent claim 9 has been amended to recite that the first control state is reached when "a temperature difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven chamber temperature is increasing and exceeds a first threshold value." Support for the amendment may be found, for example at paragraph [0027] of the present specification and Fig. 3. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

Claims 9-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cock (EP 0878 667 A2).

EP '667 describes an oven cleaning process in which a heating element 4 is switched on and off to keep a porous plug (catalyst) temperature in the range 450 to 600 °C. See col. 3, lines 20-23. The oven temperature approaches the porous plug temperature, i.e., the difference between the oven and the porous plug decreases, until, towards the end of the cleaning process, an end-point datum is identified when the difference between the temperature of the oven temperature sensor 12 and the porous plug temperature sensor 15 falls below a predetermined amount. See col. 3, lines 37-42, and Fig. 2.

Independent claim 9 of the present application, as amended, recites

generating a first electrical control signal based on a first control state, ... the first control state being reached when a catalyst temperature is higher than an oven chamber temperature and a temperature difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven

chamber temperature is increasing and exceeds a first threshold value; and

controlling the heating source using the first electrical control signal so that the oven chamber temperature is maintained substantially constant.

It is respectfully submitted that EP '667 does not teach controlling the heating source based on a temperature difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven chamber temperature increasing and exceeding a first threshold value, so that the oven chamber temperature is maintained substantially constant, as recited in claim 9. In contrast, EP '667 turns off the heating element 4 when an end-point datum is identified at which the difference between the oven and the porous plug is decreasing and falls below a predetermined amount. See EP '667 col. 3, lines 37-42, and Fig. 2. Because EP '667 fails to teach the above-recited features of independent claim 9, it cannot anticipate claim 9 or its dependent claims.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on EP '667 is respectfully requested.

New claims

New claims 20-29 have been added. New independent claim 20 recites the features of original claims 9 and 11. New dependent claims 21-29 recite the features of original claims 10 and 12-19, respectively. New independent claim 20 recites

generating a first electrical control signal based on a first control state, the first control state being a function of respective electrical sensor signals from the oven chamber temperature sensor and the catalyst temperature sensor, the first control state being reached when a catalyst temperature is higher than an oven chamber temperature and a temperature difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven chamber temperature is greater than or equal to a first threshold value;

... and

generating a second electrical control signal based on a second control state, the second control state being a function of the electrical sensor signals and being reached when the catalyst temperature is higher than the oven chamber temperature, and the temperature difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven

chamber temperature is smaller than a second threshold value and was previously greater than the first threshold value.

It is respectfully submitted that EP '667 does not teach generating first and second electrical control signals, and controlling the heating source, as recited in new claim 20. In contrast, EP '667 merely identifies a single end-point datum when the difference between the oven and the porous plug is decreasing and falls below a predetermined amount. It is respectfully submitted that because EP '667 is missing the above-recited features of new independent claim 20, new independent claim 20 and its dependent new claims 21-29 are patentable over EP '667.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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